

**Alaska FASD Partnership
Steering Committee – MINUTES
Wednesday, April 9, 2014**

I. Introductions - Sean O'Brien (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)), Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (parent advocate, Maniilaq, Governor's Council on Disabilities Special Education (GCDSE) FASD workgroup), Shannon Cross (Clinical Director, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)), Mike Baldwin (Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust)), Teri Tibbett (Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (AMHB-ABADA)).

II. Member updates

Mike B. The Trust has been working with Senator Kelly's *Empowering Hope* group to help develop the language for SB 64, the Omnibus Crime bill, and the budget requests for screening in DOC and an FASD media campaign. The Trust's CEO, Jeff Jessee, is a member of the *Empowering Hope* workgroup. The Trust is also working with AMHB-ABADA to gather potential screening tools that DOC/DJJ can use for FASD screening. Mike said that the Arctic FASD Regional Training Center is applying for a grant that would set up a "Practice and Implementation Center" focusing on prevention and treatment for individuals with FASD, targeting medical and medical allied professionals.

Sean talked about serving on the statewide Prisoner Reentry Task Force and Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and noted both groups are undertaking some efforts related to FASD. He added that the Northern Door Clubhouse in Fairbanks received funding from Fairbanks City Council to run a clubhouse that serves a variety of people, including people with FASD.

Jeanne reported on the activities of the FASD workgroup of the GCDSE. See notes below under "Other Statewide Efforts."

Shannon reported on an FASD curriculum in DJJ and how they're working on getting that training up and going, that its in the first stage, which involves going out to different DJJ facilities and working with staff to do the training. DJJ is also working on getting prenatal alcohol exposure checked off on electronic records. Also, looking into what Canada is doing for screening juveniles, with the hope of implementing an effective tool in DJJ. She also noted she deals with parents of youth affected by FASD who are not having success accessing resources.

III. FASD news in the Legislature

Teri offered an update on legislation and budget items currently moving in the Alaska State Legislature – including Senator Kelly's *Empowering Hope* initiative, SCR 13, SCR 14, language in SB 64, the Omnibus Crime bill, calling for screening in corrections, and funding for a statewide media campaign. See 3.13.14 minutes for links and more detailed explanations.

IV. FASD Advocacy in the Legislature

Juneau FASD Summit. Teri discussed a 3-day FASD advocacy summit in March, that brought advocates to Juneau to learn advocacy skills, understand current legislative efforts, have meetings with legislators, and brainstorm about service delivery for people impacted by FASD.

Regional Advocacy Trainings. During the interim and early in the legislative session, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority sponsored four advocacy trainings statewide that offered

assistance and training in navigating the legislative process, effectively advocating for programs and services that support people with disabilities (including people with FASD), and hints for successful meetings with legislators. The trainings added 125 new advocates who contacted legislators, shared their personal stories, and offered their suggestions for change.

V. Other Statewide FASD Efforts

FASD Workgroup of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. Jeanne reported that the workgroup decided to remain a workgroup of the GCDSE with an overall focus of "FASD-informed care." Their priorities include 1) Services (including DD eligibility, education and services for life); 2) Self-advocacy (including starting an SAFA (Self-Advocates with FASD in Action) chapter started); 3) Substance abuse treatment for people with FASD; and 4) Prevention of secondary characteristics through *FASD Into Action*.

Anchorage FASD Council. Tommy O'Malley, chair of the council, reported to Teri that the group is a coalition of people who provide services and referral for services. Their goals include: 1) working on the language that goes into Behavioral Health grants to be sure FASD concerns are included and addressed; 2) working on a needs assessment survey that asks what services are currently out there and what are needed; 3) working on FASD Awareness Day at the Anchorage School District atrium, board room, and STEP Center, and will include information tables, stick figures, networking, etc.

Juneau FASD Working Group. Teri reported the workgroup is addressing several areas: 1) opening a Juneau FASD diagnostic clinic under REACH, the DD (Developmental Disabilities) provider in Juneau. They are inviting people to contact them with suggestions for the clinic. The clinic has been undergoing training and gathering the necessary diagnostic materials; 2) developing a Juneau FASD resource center within local and state libraries to include a section on FASD, that is catalogued within the library system. Also, working on funding that would provide books, CDs, DVDs, and other resources for the libraries, and a resource library within the Juneau FASD clinic; 3) writing monthly letters-to-the-editor and opinion pieces for the Juneau Empire; 4) inclusion of information on FASD prevention and interventions within the UAS Special Education curriculum; 5) planning for a International FASD conference in Juneau; 6) creating more classroom training opportunities for teachers and special education staff in the Juneau School District; and 7) developing a Whitecrow Alaska camp in Juneau.

VI. Other announcements

Mike B. discussed changes related SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance), including challenges, the revamping that's going on, and the potential for the program to be out of money in two years. Will email a link or explanation.

Mike B. announced the Trust is having a quarterly board meeting on May 7, 2014 and there will be opportunities for public testimony. Look at the Trust website for details: www.mhtrust.org.

Next meeting: Wed. May 14, 2014 at 3pm